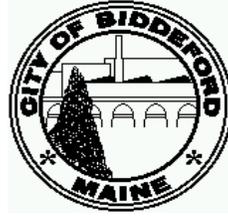


**DRAFT March 2013**



# **CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE**

## **5 Year Consolidated Plan**

**July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018**

**U.S DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**



## **The City's Entitlement Mission Statement is as follows:**

“To create a Strategic Plan for the next five years that continues to enhance the community and economic development of the City of Biddeford through targeted public facility and infrastructure improvements, social services, housing, economic development projects, and activities that benefit residents, including low to moderate income persons and special needs population groups.”

## **Objectives and Outcomes**

The following are the priorities, objectives and outcomes for the new Consolidated 5 Year Plan to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. These priorities, objectives and outcomes also are part of each individual year's Action Plan. Detailed projects and programs for each of the five years are developed and prioritized from this list. Priorities are listed in the order in which they rank (highest Priority #1, etc.) Each is also addressed within the narrative of the Consolidated Plan and are part of the multifaceted approach to continue to address the City's issues. It should be noted that although Infrastructure is Priority 1 that from comments collected at the Public Hearings and from the Citizens Advisory Committee, Priority 2, Housing, is to be funded equally with Infrastructure.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Priority 1** - To eliminate slum and blight in the downtown area through infrastructure and public facilities improvements that benefit LMI neighborhoods.

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 1 - Increase access and provide public facilities that provide for the health and safety of residents in LMI neighborhoods.

- Actions:
1. Implement sidewalk and other street improvements, ADA projects and beautification projects in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate access to services and facilities.
  2. Implement park, trail and walkway developments in LMI neighborhoods for safe and adequate recreation needs through acquisition, demolition and redevelopment.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Outcome – Improving sustainability by promoting viable communities

Objective 2 - Increase business attraction to promote job creation

- Actions:
1. Provide loan/grant assistance to commercial property owners and businesses through a Downtown Micro Loan Program.
  2. Provide for projects that increase the economic viability of the downtown.
  3. Implement sustainable energy related projects in the downtown.

## HOUSING

**Priority 2** - To provide a strategy to meet the increasing need for transitional to affordable and supportive housing.

### HUD OBJECTIVE – PROVIDING DECENT HOUSING

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units

Objective 1 - Increase the supply of safe and adequate affordable housing for low to moderate-income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider making the City's "surplus" and/or tax acquired real estate available for the development of affordable housing.
  2. Consider revisions to the City's zoning and land use standards which would provide incentives, e.g. density bonuses for the development of affordable housing.
  3. In partnership with other public/private parties, explore the adaptive re-use and redevelopment of non-residential properties, e.g. mills, churches, etc. into affordable housing.
  4. Consider and implement when feasible combinations of housing and community space that support LMI neighborhoods and enhance opportunities for housing occupants.

Objective 2 - Preserve and upgrade the City's housing stock serving low to moderate income persons.

- Actions:
1. Consider establishment of low interest loan programs to help finance the rehabilitation of the City's downtown housing stock.
  2. Consider acquisition and demolition of blighted properties for construction of new housing when applicable.
  3. Provide funding to low to moderate income homeowners for improvements comprised of energy conservation.
  4. Consider establishment of low interest loan programs to help finance the rehabilitation of the City's downtown housing stock.
  5. Undertake a systematic and concentrated program of code enforcement to ensure life safety standards are met and to prevent blighting influences on neighborhoods.
  6. Encourage participation by landlords in the Biddeford Landlords Association and encourage partnerships that provide resources for landlords and tenants.

Objective 3 - Increase opportunities for homeownership for low and moderate income persons.

- Actions: 1. Consider a partnership with other public/private organizations to pool resources to help finance home ownership, e.g. down payments, loan assistance, mortgage interest rate write-downs, and other financing mechanisms.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Priority 3** - Provide educational and work opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations that provide avenues to obtain jobs and/or better paying work opportunities.

### **HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Increase the economic prosperity of homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations, and their ability to afford housing, and health and safety amenities by providing work opportunities and partnerships that provide housing and housing services.

- Actions: 1. Provide opportunities for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to participate in work force preparedness and financial management programs that enhance their ability to have access to affordable housing.
2. Provide child care and youth programs that increase the opportunity for homeless and low to moderate income persons, and special needs populations to attend educational and training programs, while providing enrichment programs for youths of all ages.
3. Link local programs to secondary education and training that would be the "next step" for low to moderate income persons, homeless and special needs populations, and implement training and educational programs for these populations.

**Priority 4** - Implement strategies to aid the elderly and special needs populations with access to information and services to increase health and safety and reduce reliance on the City's overburdened Health and Welfare Department that can only provide minimal assistance.

### **HUD OBJECTIVE – CREATING A SUITABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT**

Outcome – Improving availability or accessibility of units or services

Objective 1 - Improve the health and safety of the elderly and special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Provide and coordinate programs that outreach to the elderly and enable the elderly to access assistance that enhances their quality of life.

**Priority 5** - To reinforce and strengthen the emergency shelter and transitional housing system that is already in place which includes housing, counseling, education and a wide variety of homeless, special needs and LMI assistance.

Objective 1 - Assist and work with the City's Health and Welfare Department, volunteer organizations and agencies to seek collaborative efforts to assist homeless, low to moderate income and special needs populations in Biddeford.

Actions: 1. Encourage network meetings of area resources and services.

\* The following falls under all priority listings and pertains to special needs populations thus giving it a stand alone Objective and Action.

Objective 1 - Provide for a seamless network of social services and assistance for special needs populations.

Actions: 1. Continue to gather all social service information and examine gaps in existing systems for all special needs population groups (includes diagnostic, rehabilitative, educational, housing and work opportunities).

Changes were made to the Priorities, Objectives and Actions from input from the January 14<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing and recommendations from the Citizens Advisory Committee and Director of Economic and Community Development. The recommendations included funding of 15% annually for Social Services over the next five years and 20% for Administration. It was recommended that Infrastructure and Housing projects be equally funded at approximately 25% each, business assistance programs at 5%, and park improvements at 10%. These figures could change depending upon the urgency of projects that could require more funding under a given Priority and change these percentages in any given year. In addition, decreases or increases in the City's annual allotment will have a direct impact on allotted percentages and will allow for adjustments to these figures excepting Social Services and Administration.